[2nd March 1929

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" If Mr. Mudaliyar's tender was the lowest, what made the Government accept the other costlier tender ?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The tenderers to whom the work has been given at present are the only people who undertook to finish the work within the shortest minimum time possible. Morever they are specialists in carrying out ferao concrete works of this nature."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I ask the Government whether they are aware that this company have no experience at all in construction work and that it is a European company, while on the other hand Mr. Mudaliyar is a man of considerable experience in carrying out construction work, and whether he has not been skipped over in favour of a European firm who presented their tender after the stipulated date ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" I know that Mr. Mudaliyar is an Indian, but I do not know if this firm is a European firm. The company recently completed the Kuthupuzha bridge in Malabar district. They have also carried out very large works for the Madras and Southern Mahratta and the South Indian Railways at a cost of about 12 lakhs of rupees."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA :—" May I know whether this company has done any Government work in the City of Madras ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The Kuthupuzha bridge at Malabar is a Government work."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" The answer given to clause (*d*) is " the terms of the tenders are confidential. May I know why the Government regard them as confidential ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Because they are confidential."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" I want to know the reasons as to why they are treated as confidential ? "

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Otherwise no tenders will be forthcoming."

## Public Health

*Regulation of expenditure in the Tirumani Leper settlement.*

1608-A *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state what steps have been taken to reduce the rates paid to the management for maintaining each leper and regulate the expenditure for the best use of the lepers in the Tirumani settlement and to increase the rates paid to private leper asylums ?

*A.*—The Government are satisfied that the capitation grants given to the management of the Leper Settlement, Tirumani, are utilized for the best use of the lepers therein. They do not consider that any reduction in the rates can be made. Government pay to private leper asylums capitation grants at two-thirds of the actual cost of maintaining each patient subject to a maximum of Rs. 8 a month. There is no proposal to increase the rates.